Competitiveness Programme" that has been formulated in the Union Budget of 2005-06.

Export of flowers

†2963. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of flowers exported during the last two years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the countries to whom flowers were exported; and

(c) the further efforts being made by Government to promote such exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The quantum and value of flowers exported during the last two years is as under:

(quantity in metric tonnes; value in rupees in lakhs)

2002-03		2003-04	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
12298.38	10138.26	12938.41	11414.35

(Source: D G C I & S)

(b) Major destinations for export of Indian floriculture products are USA, UK, Netherlands, Japan, Germany and Italy.

(c) The initiatives taken by APEDA to boost export of floriculture products include setting up of Agri Export Zones, cargo handling and cold storage facilities at six international airports and participation in important trade fairs. It is also extending financial incentives to exporters through its schemes for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.